

# SCHOOLS REPORT

AGM Uthando Project Inc.

August 17<sup>th</sup> 2013

Enthusiasm, commitment, compassion and creativity continue to be displayed by the students at schools participating in doll making with the Uthando Project.

More secondary colleges are finding ways to fit the project into the curriculum.

- 200 year nine students from Mater Dei College completed the task in 10 days!! This is the third year that Mater Dei has participated. All students were supplied with a kit which resulted in \$1000 for Uthando.
- St Mark's Anglican College, Penrhos College, Rossmoyne Senior High School, Helena College, Roleystone Community College, All Saints Anglican College, Santa Maria College, and Polytechnic West are all making dolls again this year.
- Iona Presentation College year 11 students combined the project with a talk by a representative from the Aids Council.
- Primary School doll makers include Manjimup, Broomehill, Port Hedland, St Columba's, PLC and Sacred Heart Highgate(for the third time)
- Mundaring and Melville Magic Girl Guide groups
- Ivanhoe College Victoria and MLC Sydney (as a result of the conference)
- Erasmus School and Cottingham Campus Hull from UK

The Round Square Schools Asia Pacific residential conference, hosted by Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School in April, was a wonderful opportunity to introduce the Uthando Project to 130 Australian and international students aged between 13 and 16. The theme of the conference was 'FROM LITTLE THINGS BIG THINGS GROW', so relevant to the Uthando Project.

Anne Bell and I set up a display of dolls in the chapel foyer and around the altar where I gave an address and PowerPoint presentation for 90 minutes.

Bunbury doll makers produced about 200 beautiful dolls for the students to complete and dress in two afternoon activity sessions where Anne and I assisted. It was very rewarding to see how sewers and non-sewers cooperated and collaborated, tackling the task with determination and a great deal of fun.

Many teachers bought doll making kits and took information to review on returning home. Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School also made a generous donation of \$1000 to Uthando.

The continuing concern of teachers to involve their students in a project which focuses on awareness of others less fortunate, and to apply their skills and learning in a tangible way to giving rather than receiving, is why the Uthando project fits this need so well. Innovative teachers often use it as a focus for linking other learning areas of literacy, health, visual art, society and environment as well as teaching associated values.

Lynne Tognolini